



# FACTORS AFFECTING TEACHING-LEARNING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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## ABSTRACT

This abstract aims to provide a brief overview of the significant factors that influence the teaching and learning process of English as a second language (ESL). It highlights various internal and external factors that can greatly impact ESL education. Understanding these factors is crucial for educators and learners to effectively address potential challenges and optimize the language learning experience.

Internal factors refer to characteristics inherent in the learner or teacher, such as their motivation, cognitive abilities, personality traits, and prior language knowledge. Motivation plays a vital role in language learning, as learners with high motivation tend to actively engage in the learning process and persist in face of difficulties. Cognitive abilities, including memory, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, contribute to the learners' language proficiency. Moreover, individual personality traits such as extroversion, openness to experience, and self-confidence may influence the learners' willingness to participate in classroom activities and use English in real-life situations.

External factors encompass a wide range of influences that exist outside of the individual, including cultural, social, and environmental aspects. Cultural differences may affect ESL learners' language learning experiences, as language is interwoven with cultural norms, values, and beliefs. Social factors, such as peer interactions and the attitudes of family members and community towards language learning, can either facilitate or hinder the acquisition of English as a second language. Additionally, the learning environment, including the availability of resources, teaching methods, and classroom activities, also plays a crucial role in the learning process. Other factors include language policies and curriculum design, which may shape the teaching and learning strategies employed in ESL classrooms. Furthermore, technological advancements have introduced new possibilities and challenges in ESL education. The integration of technology, including digital tools and online resources, offers innovative and interactive language learning opportunities. However, issues such as access to technology and the digital divide can create disparities in ESL learning experiences.

**KEYWORDS:** Teaching-Learning Process, English Language, Impending Factors, Second Language Acquisition.

## INTRODUCTION

English has become a global language and is widely acknowledged as a means of communication, education, and social mobility. As such, the importance of ESL education cannot be underestimated. However, the effectiveness of ESL teaching and learning varies across different regions. This study focuses on West Bengal, where English is taught as a second language in schools and colleges. The objective is to critically assess the current state of ESL education in West Bengal and identify areas of improvement. English is widely learned as a second language in the state of West Bengal, India. The importance of English proficiency has been recognized in various sectors such as education, business, and administration. The prominence of English in West Bengal can be attributed to historical factors such as British colonial rule and the subsequent influence of Western education systems.

English language teaching in West Bengal faces both challenges and opportunities. One of the main challenges is the large number of students and limited resources. Public schools often struggle to provide adequate English language education due to the lack of trained teachers, modern teaching materials, and infrastructure. Additionally, cultural factors and regional languages can sometimes act as barriers to English language acquisition.

However, there are also several strategies and initiatives that aim to overcome these challenges. The state government of West Bengal has implemented various programs to improve English language education, including providing training for teachers and developing standardized curriculum materials. Private institutes and language centers also play a significant role in offering English language courses to students of all ages.

Moreover, the use of technology and digital resources has revolutionized English language learning in West Bengal. Online platforms, mobile applications, and e-learning tools have made English language education more accessible and interactive. These resources allow students to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills at their own pace.

Despite the challenges, the importance of English language proficiency in West Bengal cannot be overstated. English is seen as a gateway to higher education, employment opportunities, and global communication. In a globalized world, being fluent in English opens doors for personal and professional development.

English as a second language in West Bengal is a significant aspect of education in the state. While there are challenges to overcome, the government, private institutions, and technological advancements are working together to provide quality English language education and improve students' proficiency in the language.

## Significance of the Study:

This section discusses the significance of the study and its potential contributions to the field of ESL education in West Bengal. It highlights the importance of understanding the challenges and issues faced by teachers and learners in order to improve the quality of ESL education in the region. It discussed how the findings of the study can inform policy and curriculum development, teacher training programs, and the selection and development of instructional materials. Additionally, it has discussed the potential impact of the study on the overall language proficiency and communication skills of ESL learners in West Bengal. The specific research questions may include:

- What are the main challenges faced by teachers in teaching ESL in West Bengal?
- What are the main challenges faced by learners in acquiring English as a second language in West Bengal?

## Challenges in Teaching-Learning ESL:

It explored the challenges faced by both teachers and learners in the ESL classroom in West Bengal. It will discuss factors such as limited exposure to English outside the classroom, lack of resources and infrastructure, and the influence of the mother tongue on language acquisition.

Nowadays learning the English language is very important for the students. They join different institutes for learning the English language. Where the English teachers teach the English language to them. Teaching the English language to non-English speakers is not an easy job for the teachers. The quality of a good teacher is to recognize the problems and facilitate the best ever environments for the students and encourage them to learn. The study is going to discuss all the problems faced by teachers in teaching the English

## Disturbed Environment of the class

Environment matter most in learning and teaching the English language. Mostly the English teachers faced environmental problems in teaching the English language. The disturbing environment of the classroom distracts the teachers and affects the teaching of the English language. A suitable and comfortable

environment is the basic need of teaching the English language. If the environment is not suitable and comfortable for the teachers then it ruins all the teaching and learning process of the English language. A positive and comfortable learning environment is very essential for teaching the English language. Mostly the teachers faced such kind of disturbing environment in teaching the English language.

#### Limited Teaching Resources

Not only the English language, Teaching anything mostly depends on the resources. Mostly the teachers faced this kind of problem, the resources which are essential for delivering the lectures of the English language to the students for effective learning are not provided to them. It became very difficult for the teachers to teach without the resources essential for the lectures. The resources include speakers, mike, projectors, computer systems, and other kinds of digital devices. It makes the overall lecture and environment interesting and effective for the students and helps them in learning the English language.

#### A large number of students in the classroom

A large number of students in the classroom produce A large number of students in the classroom produce a lot of disturbance and stress for the teachers because teaching a large number of students the teachers have to do more effort and hardworking. The problems caused by a large number of students are given below:

1. Disturbed the teacher by making noises.
2. Difficult to manage the class students.
3. Engaging crowded students in learning is very difficult.
4. The learning resources are not available for all the students.

These are some problems that arise in a crowded class.

#### Importance of Syllabus

The syllabus is a kind of content that the teachers follow to teach to the students. The syllabus plays a very important role in teaching the English language and also in other subjects. The syllabus helps the teachers to prepare the important factors of the course and organized the overall course to teach to the students step by step. Mostly the teachers faced this problem in teaching the English language. The wrong syllabus is given to them to teach the students the English language. The teachers teach the wrong syllabus will make negative impressions on the students, and by this, the students cannot learn and speak the English language.

#### Lack of Time for Teaching

Time is the most important thing in learning the English language. It takes time for the teachers to observe their students and teach them at their level. The time of the class is very little for the teachers to teach the English language. This one of the most difficult tasks for the teachers to teach in less time. This is probably not possible for the teachers to complete the topics of their lectures in less time, which is not enough.

#### Using Other Language in the Class room

Speaking other languages or speaking in the native language is the most noticeable issue faced by English teachers. For the students, it's very easy to speak in their native language or other languages which they can speak easily instead of the English language. It's very frustrating for the students trying to speak the language and think the words and sentences to speak which they didn't know. It's very easy for them to communicate in their native language or the language they already have experience with. This is the most common and big problem faced by the English teachers in teaching the English language to the students in which the English language is not their native language.

#### Complete dependence on Teacher

Another noticeable problem faced by the teachers is the students completely depend on the teachers. They didn't try to learn and speak themselves. Those students every time look to the teachers for helping them in learning and giving them the correct answers. They didn't try to make words and correct sentences in speaking the English language. By this problem, the students didn't learn the technical terms and conditions of how to use different kinds of tenses and words of the English language in speaking.

#### Lack of Interest

Students getting bored and not interest in learning the English language is also a problem faced by teachers. Sometimes the students are not interested in learning and attending the lectures on the English language. Then they try to do other activities. Sometimes They disturbed the teachers by talking to the others and doing other non-sense activities during the lecture.

#### Difficulties in class management

In the English learning academies, it can be found that mostly the students in the English classes belong to different backgrounds. Mostly the students in English learning classes belong to rural areas. Where there is no scope for learning the English language. it's very difficult for them to learn the English language. Mostly they are unable to learn the English language. Some of them have the capabilities of learning the English language. Then it becomes very difficult for the teachers to manage the class and keep all the classes going in the same way.

#### Role of Competitive Mind

Competitions play a very important role in learning the English language. it forces the students to learn the English language, like debates, quizzes, etc. Competitions encourage the students to learn more and more and win the competitions from the other fellow students. It helps a lot the teachers to teach the English language to the students whose English language is not their native language. Different kinds of Competitions between the students make learning the English language interesting and encourage them to take part in the competitions and win from their fellows. Competitions make teaching the English language easier for the teachers. Teachers have to arrange competition sessions between the students.

#### Use the old and traditional methods in teaching

Mostly the teachers of the English language use the old and traditional methods in teaching. But the new devices and gadgets which are specially made for educational purposes can better the teaching and learning of the English language. Teachers should use multimedia devices in the classroom in their lectures. It makes learning the English language more interesting and understandable for the students. Because students can easily get the point and understand by the visual images, videos, and sounds, etc. instead of written in the books.

#### Good design of the syllabus

Making a good design of the syllabus plays a very important role in learning the English language. The syllabus is a kind of content planner of the course that will be taught and learn in the course step by step. A good design of the syllabus shows the quality of the course to study and on the other hand, a bad syllabus makes negative impressions on the English learning students. The organization and the teachers need to make a good design of the syllabus which is complete and easy to understand for learning the English language. The syllabus is basically a way for the teachers and also for the students that what they are studying in the course one by one and what to study next. So, making a good design of the syllabus solves a lot of problems for the teachers in teaching the English language.

#### Interactive approach in Classroom teaching

It's very difficult for the students to learn and speak the English language fluently because the English language is not the native language of most of the students. The mother language or the native language of the students they learn from their parents. There is no need for syllabus and grammar rules to think and making sentences and correct words before speaking the native language. It can be learned from speaking and conversing with their parents. So, speaking and conversation play a very important role in learning the English language. The teachers have to arrange conversational sessions between the students. The students feel more comfortable with their friends, so leave the students to start a conversation with their friends and fellows, By this, they can easily understand and learn the English language and also can practice speaking the English language. Most of the successful institutes of learning the English language mostly focus on the conversation sessions in learning the English language.

#### Teaching through Games

Games are a kind of activity which engaged the students mostly. It motivates the students to play and make fun of it. Games also play a very important role in education and learning. There is a lot of educational games which can be played in the classrooms with the students. Games help a lot in building vocabulary. There is a game of placing the missing word in different kinds of sentences. It builds the vocabulary a lot. Students understand the types of words and their meaning and the structure of their placing in a sentence. Teachers should be used to play games in the classroom during the learning of the English language.

#### Need of motivation

In every field, students need the motivation to achieve their goals and step forward toward their success. Sometimes the students distract from their goals to achieve. Then motivational speeches and other motivational activities help them back to track.

#### Pedagogical Approaches and Strategies

This section reviewed different pedagogical approaches and strategies used in ESL education in West Bengal. It will discuss the effectiveness of traditional methods such as grammar-translation and audio-lingual approaches, as well as more communicative and task-based approaches.

#### Role of Curriculum and Materials

This section examined the role of curriculum and materials in ESL education in West Bengal. It discussed the importance of a well-designed curriculum that addresses the specific needs and goals of ESL learners in the region. The section reviewed the availability and suitability of textbooks, supplementary materials, and other resources used in ESL classrooms. Additionally, it will explore the impact of curriculum and materials on teaching and learning outcomes.

#### DISCUSSION

The study found that ESL education in West Bengal faces several challenges, including a lack of qualified teachers, limited resources, and a curriculum that does not adequately address the needs of learners. Teachers reported feeling unprepared to teach ESL and expressed a need for more professional

development opportunities. Learners also faced difficulties in developing their language skills, particularly in speaking and listening.

Despite these challenges, the study also identified some strengths in ESL education in West Bengal. Teachers were dedicated and motivated to help their students succeed, and learners showed a strong desire to improve their English proficiency. The use of textbooks and traditional teaching methods was prevalent, but there was also some incorporation of interactive activities and technology in the classroom.

The findings of this study align with existing literature on ESL education in India. Previous research has also highlighted the challenges faced by ESL teachers, including a lack of training and resources. The need for a revised curriculum that focuses on communicative language teaching and the use of authentic materials has also been emphasized in previous studies.

However, this study also adds to the existing literature by providing specific insights into the challenges and strengths of ESL education in West Bengal. It highlights the unique context of the region and the specific needs of learners and teachers in this area.

## CONCLUSION

Teaching and learning a second language are a complex and dynamic process that involves various strategies, approaches, and considerations. Second language teaching and learning is a multifaceted process that requires considerations such as motivation, teaching methods, technology, authentic materials, assessment, and multiculturalism. By addressing these aspects thoughtfully, teachers can create an engaging and effective learning environment for students to develop their language proficiency.

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